



[study guide]

RELIGIOUS MYTHS: Week 3

4.14.13

[warm up]

Discuss some scenarios where followers of Christ might have a hard time feeling forgiven.

What are some religious things you have seen people do to help them feel forgiven?

What do you tend to do when you feel guilty about something in order to alleviate your guilt?

How do unresolved guilt and shame hold believers back?

[dig in]

Because God hates sin, the price for forgiveness is high. Hebrews 9:22 says that “without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.” Why does God require the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sin?

Read Hebrews 10:1-11. In what ways are the Old Testament rituals and sacrifices similar to some of today’s rituals and ceremonies?

Why don’t rituals, ceremonies, and sacrifices take away our sins? (See Hebrews 10:11b.)

Read Hebrews 10:14-22. List all the benefits you can find in these verses that we receive because of the sacrifice of Jesus, our Great High Priest.

The Bible gives us some additional amazing images regarding the forgiveness we receive through Christ.

- a. He washes us and makes us whiter than snow (Psalm 51:7, Isaiah 1:18).
- b. He blots out all our iniquities (Psalm 51:9).
- c. He removes our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12).
- d. He casts all our sins behind His back (Isaiah 38:17).
- e. He sweeps away our sins like a thick cloud and a heavy mist (Isaiah 44:22).
- f. He casts all our sins into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:18-19).
- g. He embraces us and throws an elaborate party for us (Luke 15:11-24).
- h. He sets us free, releasing us from our sins (Romans 6:18, Revelation 1:5).



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- i. He does not count our trespasses against us (II Corinthians 5:19).
- j. He cancelled the debt we owed (Colossians 2:14, Matthew 6:12).

Which of these images means the most to you today? Why?

Remember, Hebrews 10:17 says that we are so forgiven that God remembers our sins no more. Yet I John 1:9 says we need to confess our sins. What does it mean to confess already forgiven sins?

When it comes to your forgiveness, how will you more and more transfer your trust from the rituals to the Redeemer, from the shadows to the Substance, from the myths to the Master? And how do you think this will set you more and more free from guilt and shame?

How do you think feeling forgiven by God has contributed to believers being able and willing to forgive someone who has hurt them?

[living it out]

Who is someone you are struggling to forgive? How might feeling forgiven by God apart from any rituals or ceremonies help you move toward forgiving the person who has hurt you? What will that look like this week?

Spend some time as a group praising Jesus for not only being the Great High Priest who offered the sacrifice for your sins, but also the Spotless Lamb who became the sacrifice. He is both the Sacrifice and the Sacrificer.

How will you believe or behave differently after hearing this message?